

10/780,904

Instant
Specification

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Particularly preferred binding agents are monoclonal antibodies.

The contemporaneous tests of the invention can be conducted repeatedly, generally at an interval of at least a week, to monitor the effectiveness of a course of HRT.

The sample tested in the contemporaneous assays may be a sample of any suitable body fluid from the subject, such as blood, serum, plasma, sweat, tears, crevicular fluid and the like. Most conveniently the sample is a sample of urine.

Although FSH is the preferred analyte for use in accordance with the invention, other members of the gonadotrophin family can be used. These include human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), luteinizing hormone (LH) and thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH). All of these gonadotrophins are glycopeptides. Their principal structure comprises two peptide chains. One peptide chain, known as the alpha chain, is common to all members of the family. The other peptide chain, known as the beta chain, differs in each molecule. In addition, each molecule contains glycoprotein side chains. The detailed structure of these molecules is not completely understood. However it is believed that variations in the composition of the glycoprotein side chains give rise to different forms ("glycoforms") of each molecule. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that differences in the chemical properties of the glycoprotein side chains may also influence the physical properties (e.g. charge) of the overall molecule, such that different glycoforms may also constitute different isoforms. Thus, in the case of FSH for example, on present scientific knowledge it is believed that the alpha and beta peptide chains are the same in all FSH forms, but subtle differences occur in the glycoprotein side